

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in **amended Claim 1** relates to a method of producing a malt alcohol beverage, comprising:

removing through adsorption at least a part of rough flavor components from malt, a malt alcohol beverage intermediate product, or the malt alcohol beverage with the aid of an **adsorbent selected from the group consisting of a strongly basic anion-exchange resin, a weakly basic anion-exchange resin and a synthetic adsorbent.**

In contrast, Dalglish (US 4,156,025) fail to disclose or suggest the use of a strongly basic anion-exchange resin, a weakly basic anion-exchange resin or a synthetic adsorbent.

Dalglish uses cation exchange resins in hydrogen form to remove haze precursors (abstract). Specifically mentioned is a strongly acidic cation exchange resin of the styrene-divinyl-benzene type (col. 1, lines 50-53). "Haze precursors" are normally regarded as polyphenols and proteins in the wine or beer industry and are different from "rough flavor component" as claimed.

In addition, "synthetic adsorbents" are defined in the website of Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation: http://www.diaion.com/Sepabeads_Main/Sepabeads_Main_R_E.htm. A copy of the respective text is attached herewith.

Moreover, synthetic resins have been further defined in new Claims 11 and 12.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Dalglish is believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The objection to Claims 5 and 6 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 (c) is obviated by the amendment of these Claims.

The rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

“Rough-flavor component” is explained on page 17, lines 14-21, of the specification. The rough flavor components include causative substances for stale flavor, precursor substances thereof, or organic acids (such as citric acid and succinic acid). The causative substances for stale flavor include, for example, carbonyl compounds (such as trans-2-nonenal) and Maillard compounds.

As disclosed on page 3, lines 12 of the specification, “rough flavor component” can be paraphrased as “powdery component.” A “rough flavor (powdery) component” is a substance that is removed from malt, a malt alcohol beverage intermediate product, or the malt alcohol beverage in order to improve the taste of the malt alcohol beverage. By removing the “rough flavor (powdery) component”, the taste improves and becomes “clear.” Although the “rough flavor (powdery) component” is a term normally used in a wine industry, the term can be also used in a beer industry. That is, a person in the beer industry easily understands that “rough flavor (powdery) component” means a component having sour or harsh flavor that deteriorates the beer's taste. The main components of “rough flavor (powdery) component” are thought to be organic acids such as citric acid with a sour taste and succinic acid with a bitter taste. Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

The objection to the abstract is obviated by the new abstract. A copy of the new abstract has been provided on a separate sheet, attached herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement, filed in the above-identified application on **March 11, 2002**, have been considered. For the Examiner's convenience a copy of Form PTO 1449 as filed on **March 11, 2002**, is attached herewith.

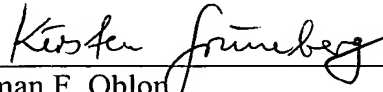
Application No.: 10/070,814

Reply to the Office Action dated: September 11, 2003:

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No.: 24,618

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
NFO:KAG:

Kirsten A. Grueneberg, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 47,297